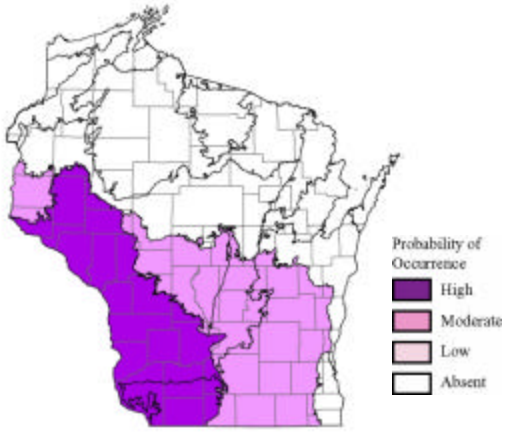
Yellow-bellied Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	4.5
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	2
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.6
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Sand prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Cedar glade
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry cliff
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak barrens
Western Coulee and Ridges	Sand prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry-mesic forest

Threats and Issues

- Habitat loss and degradation from bluffland and other urban sprawl, conversion of sand prairie to agricultural land, and encroachment of red cedar and other woody debris into bluff and sand prairies (unchecked natural succession) threatens this species.
- Spotted knapweed, a non-native invasive plant, has the potential to reduce carrying capacity through habitat simplification that may impact rodent populations. This appears to be an imminent threat.
- Off-road vehicles can damage sensitive habitats and may cause direct mortality.
- Road building fragments habitats and increases road mortality.
- This species appears to be declining faster than we would expect given the habitat threats. This suggests that other unrecognized threats may exist.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Permanent protection of additional bluff and sand prairie habitat would benefit this species.
- Land management efforts to reverse the negative effects of natural succession on public and private lands is necessary to help stabilize and recover populations.
- Restore agricultural lands to suitable habitat as they are acquired and/or protected.
- Major strides in policy and education are needed to ensure that wildlife habitat is adequately represented and considered in zoning and planning decisions.
- Education of landowners is needed to accomplish habitat restoration work on private lands. One avenue for this is the rare snake workshops.
- Research is needed to identify other causes of decline.
- Long term monitoring is needed to evaluate population status and track trends of representative populations.
- Landowner incentive programs may help address management of appropriate habitats. Additional funding for these programs is needed.
- Partnering with prairie restoration groups like the Prairie Enthusiasts will help accomplish management more efficiently.
- Partner with universities and colleges to accomplish needed research and address conservation concerns.